

Amendments to Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. - 14. (Canceled)

15. (New) Implant plate for stabilizing a fracture of an upper-arm head or a fracture of a proximal upper arm, and formed to a flat longitudinal channel for bearing against a bone, comprising:

a head-end portion and a shaft-end portion, forming a spoon-shaped outer contour;

holes for bone screws;

at least one raised receiving member for a flexible fastening member, such as a wire cerclage or a surgical suture material, disposed at an outer edge or contour of a side of the head-end portion of the implant plate facing away from the bone;

wherein the at least one receiving member has an aperture of circular enclosed inner diameter that surrounds a central axis extending substantially parallel to the outer edge or contour, and to the upper and lower side of the head-end portion of the implant plate, for threading, passing-through, and drawing together the flexible fastening member; and

wherein the at least one receiving member is provided with the aperture by being formed to be one of a tube, an eyelet, a round hook, and a ridge perpendicular to an outer edge of the head-end portion and having a drill hole, or a hole produced by a laser device or by punching.

16. (New) Implant plate according to claim 15, wherein an outer edge of the aperture in the receiving member has been at least one of blunted, rounded, and smoothed on an entry and exit side.

17. (New) Implant plate according to claim 15, wherein a thickness of material of the implant plate including the head-end portion and the shaft-end portion is substantially uniform, wherein the head-end portion of the implant plate is widened to be of spoon-shape, and the shaft-end portion is designed to be comparatively narrower, and wherein all receiving members for the flexible fastening member are spaced along an outer edge or contour of the head-end portion.

18. (New) Implant plate according to claim 15, wherein the receiving members are made from strip material by at least one of laser-treatment, punching, cutting, deep drawing, bending and edge-rolling, and wherein the apertures are made by at least one of drilling, punching, laser-treatment, deep drawing, or bending and edge-rolling.

19. (New) Implant plate according to claim 15, wherein the receiving members consist of externally prefabricated ridges with drill holes, tubular receiving members, or round hooks, with or without a base, and wherein the receiving members are welded, pressure-welded, soldered, screwed, or riveted onto predetermined locating positions close to an edge of the strip material.

20. (New) Implant plate according to claim 15, wherein all edges and rims intended to contact the flexible fastening member and human tissue have been at least one of blunted, rounded, and smoothed.

21. (New) Implant plate according to claim 15, wherein the head-end portion of the implant plate has a blade disposed along an extension of a longitudinal axis, the blade having a sharp edge at one end.

22. (New) Implant plate according to claim 21, wherein the blade has at least one drill hole having at least one screw thread into which upper-arm head-screws extending from the head-end portion of the implant plate may be screwed.

23. (New) Method for manufacturing an implant plate for stabilizing a fracture of an upper-arm head or a fracture of a proximal upper arm, and formed to a flat longitudinal channel for bearing against a bone, the implant plate having a head-end portion and a shaft-end portion, a spoon-shaped contour, and holes for bone screws, comprising the steps of:

fitting the head-end portion of the implant plate with at least one raised receiving member for a flexible fastening member, such as a wire cerclage or a surgical suture material, disposed at an outer edge or contour of a side of the head-end portion that faces away from the bone; and

providing the at least one receiving member with an aperture of circular enclosed inner diameter that surrounds a central axis extending substantially parallel to the outer edge or contour, and to the upper and lower side of the head-end portion facing away from the bone, for threading, passing through, and drawing together the flexible fastening member, by forming the receiving member to be one of a tube, an eyelet, a round hook, and a ridge perpendicular to an outer edge of the head-end portion and having a drill hole or a hole produced by a laser device or by punching.

24. (New) Method according to claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

making available cut to length or as a coil, a metallic strip material that is compatible with a human body;

processing the strip material by program control, semi or completely automatically in at least one of a drilling, laser-treatment, and punching device, to produce necessary apertures of relatively large diameter for bone screws;

simultaneously or subsequently processing the strip material in at least one of a drilling, laser-treatment, and punching device, to produce necessary apertures of relatively small diameter for flexible fastening members;

simultaneously or subsequently making forming-cuts as needed for forming the receiving members close to an edge in a punching, laser-treatment, or cutting device, and the like;

deep drawing, bending, edge-rolling, angling and the like, regions of the strip material, prepared for forming the receiving members close to the edge, in a direction of the side of the implant plate facing away from the bone;

disposing apertures of the receiving members, formed by drilling, punching, laser-treatment, deep drawing, bending, edge-rolling, angling off, and the like, to extend substantially parallel to an upper and lower side, and also parallel to an outer edge or contour of the implant plate; and

subjecting all edges and rims of the implant plate to at least one of blunting, rounding, and smoothing .

25. (New) Method according to claim 23, comprising the further steps of:

fitting the head-end portion of the implant plate with at least one externally formed receiving member having an incorporated aperture for a flexible fastening member on the side of the implant plate facing away from the bone; and

disposing the aperture in the receiving member to be substantially parallel to the upper and lower side, and also parallel to the outer edge or contour of the implant plate.

26. (New) Method according to claim 24, wherein the metallic strip material is one of implant steel, titanium, or titanium alloys.

27. (New) Method according to claim 24, wherein the forming-cuts are parallel cuts, oblique cuts or partial cutouts.

28. (New) Method according to claim 24, wherein forming-cuts are made as needed for forming a blade disposed along an extension of a longitudinal axis of the head-end portion, the blade having a sharp edge at one end.